



**CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE  
PAY-AS-YOU-GO ESTIMATE**

November 17, 1999

**H.R. 609**

**An act to amend the Export Apple and Pear Act to limit the  
applicability of the act to apples**

*As cleared by the Congress on November 3, 1999*

H.R. 609 (enacted as Public Law 106-96 on November 12, 1999) amends the Export Apple and Pear Act to exclude pears and rename it the Export Apple Act. CBO estimates that this legislation will have no significant budgetary impact.

Previously, the Secretary of Agriculture had to establish quality standards for exported apples and pears. The Secretary also was responsible for overseeing mandatory inspections and certification of apples and pears prior to export. Under this legislation, these requirements no longer apply to pears but will continue for apples.

The Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS) of the U.S. Department of Agriculture is responsible for carrying out the act's requirements. States collect inspection and certification fees from exporters and pay a small percentage of the fees to AMS for overseeing inspections. AMS indicates that collections of fees for pear inspections were small. While this legislation will stop mandatory federal inspections of pears for exports, it is likely that voluntary federal inspections and mandatory or voluntary state inspections will continue. The costs incurred and fees collected by AMS probably will not change significantly.

Because H.R. 609 could affect direct spending, pay-as-you-go procedures apply, but CBO estimates that any such impact will be negligible for each year.

The CBO staff contact is Craig Jagger. This estimate was approved by Peter H. Fontaine, Deputy Assistant Director for Budget Analysis.